(b) if so, the number of places/reserves along the border where criminals have intensified their nefarious activities;

(c) whether cooperation of international organisations and State Governments has also been sought to check illegal activity; and

(d) if so, their response and results in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are several vulnerable areas along the Indo-Nepal border from where cases of illegal wildlife trade are reported. These include : Dharchula, Pithoragarh, Tanakpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Bhairawa, Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Raxaul, Kakarbhitta, Darjeeling, Siliguri and Kharibari.

(c) and (d) Representatives of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were part of the Indian delegation which participated in the consultative meeting at Kathmandu and they have resolved to take cooperative action to control the illegal activities. Cooperation of international organisations and other countries has also been sought as market centres for the illegally traded products are mainly in those countries.

United Nations Environment Programme Report on desertification in India

49. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA, M.P.: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is reported in newspapers that a study conducted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report revealed that India is going to suffer much from desertification and will become a water scarce country in 2025;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to prevent such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Global Environment Outlook 1997 of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) states that India is among the countries projected to fall into the water stress category before 2025;

(b) and (c) Government have been taking various steps to protect, conserve and augment the coutry's water resources through various schemes such as Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Afforestation programmes etc.

IDA loan for Environmental Management

50. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Development Association (IDA) has approved a loan of 50 million dollars for environmental management, capacity building technical project to strengthen monitoring and compliance of laws and policies in this regard;

(b) whether there has been considerable deterioration in environmental level in water, air, and soil in India during the last decade; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure proper utilisation of the above loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) An International Development Association Loan amounting to US$ 50 million has been negotiated with the World Bank for the "India: Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project". This project would address issues of environmental policy planning, better administration of Environmental Law and their compliance, de-centralisation of Environmental Management and monitoring of certain specific high priority problem areas.

The pressures on environment and the general deterioration in the environmental level in water, air and soil are linked to economic and developmental activities. More specifically the monitoring results show increase in

pollution in some river stretches at downstream of sewage outlets and industrial discharge points. Some metropolitan cities have also shown increase of air pollution due to growth in vehicular population. However, the pollution in most of the cities are within the prescribed limits.

The said project is at an advanced stage of approval by Government of India. In-built mechanisms have been provided in the project for ensuring proper utilisation of the loan.

Admission of children of M.P.'s to Central Schools

51. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any action for admission of M.P.'s children to the Central Schools;

(b) if so, the grounds on which admission of the M.P.'s children into the Central School on priority basis have been restricted;

(c) whether there is any hostel arrangement in the Central Schools in Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Children and dependant grand-children of M.P.'s are granted admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) There is a hostel attached with Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 Delhi Cantt.

(d) Does not arise.

NEERI's study regarding Delhi's literacy rate

52. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that literacy rate is too low in the Capital than the national average;

(b) if so, whether as per study conducted by the Nagpur based National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), the NCR is heading for major problem unless remedial measures are taken;

(c) if so. the details of the study undertaken by NEERI; and

(d) the action plan of Government to improve the Capital's literacy rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir. As per the 1991 census literacy rate of the capital is 75.29% against the national average of 52.21%.

(b) and (c) The study conducted by the National Environment Engineering Research Institute related to establishment of regional assimilative capacity with respect to air, water and land components of environment, as also the supportive capacity of human and natural resources in National Capital Region.

The study envisages delineation of guidelines for evaluation and overall regional development in industry, trade and commerce, human settlements, agriculture, energy, water, transportation, communication and other public amenities, with appropriate environmental safeguards.

The study identified the limiting factors and interventions which include air media assimilative capacity, water resources, biological resources, energy resources, transportation and communication infractutre, institutional net work for environmental management, land mass etc.

The strategy indicated by the study for development plan for the region includes limiting population growth; pollution prevention; waste minimization; rejuvenation of land mass, aquabodies, forests with community participation; implement environmental management plans; adopt appropriate cultivation practices; strengthen public transport; augment water resources and water conservation; etc.

(d) Total Literacy Campaign project has been sanctioned to cover a target of 6.00 lakh learners in the age group of 15—35 years.